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FAMINE RELIEF ACTIVITIES CONTINUE;
SINKIANG REFUGEES REPORT NONCOOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS

RELIEF GRAIN AIDS BATTLE AGAINST FAMINE -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 3 Mar 50

Peiping, 2 March -- The battle against famine in Hopeh and Pingyuan provinces is being won because of speedy dispatching of relief grain and the launching of a mass production-for-relief campaign in the calamity-stricken areas. The general condition in the two provinces in recent months has been as follows:

Hopeh Province -- The Hopeh Province People's government recently received 13 million catties of relief grain from the Central People's government. A tour of inspection of the calamity areas was made by personnel from the Ministry of Interior and the North China Bureau of the CCP Central Committee. The Hopeh government dispatched ten inspecting units into the calamity areas to help people participate in the production-for-relief program. Donations of food from non-affected areas also have started to pour in. Thus far, some 400,000 catties of foodstuff have been donated by government workers.

Cooperatives are being established everywhere to start subsidiary occupations, and some 160 antiplague personnel are carrying out various activities to prevent spring epidemics.

Pingyuan Province -- The production-for-relief campaign in Pingyuan had a bad start. The program was planned by responsible officials in January 1950, but because of poor leadership, production problems were not solved. In many areas, cadres did not realize the seriousness of the calamity and remained complacent. They were slow in distributing relief grain and in paying for production activities. Up to this time, the Pingyuan government had in stock 3,500,000 catties of grain sent by the Central government, 6,500,000 catties borrowed from the People's Bank, and 40 million catties reserved for production activities.

This poor leadership and mismanagement worsened famine conditions in Pingyuan. To correct this dangerous situation, the Central People's government sent an inspecting team into the calamity areas, reshuffled the relief organizations, and set up a relief committee.

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The relief committee immediately began to distribute 3,180,000 catties of grain and allotted 18 million catties in payment for repairing the Yellow River dikes. At the same time, some 142 government and Party personnel were organized into a corps that worked among the affected people and directed the production-for-relief campaign. In areas where flood waters had receded, they directed the sowing of spring wheat.

TRAVELERS REPORT SERIOUS FAMINE IN EAST CHINA -- Hong Kong Shih-pao, 4 Mar 50

Hong Kong -- According to travelers coming from Shanghai, East China is now faced with one of the most serious famines in many decades. The situation is becoming worse each day. There are more than 10 million afflicted people in this area. Many peasants in disaster areas are selling their wives and children to prevent starvation, the same sources revealed.

PROMINENT FIGURES AMONG REFUGEES -- Hong Kong Shih-pao, 4 Mar 50

Kiirun -- Some 54 refugees from Northwest areas arrived in Kiirun on 5 March. They fled from the Northwest in August 1949 to keep from falling into Communists hands. They traveled for 6 months and for some 36,000 li (one li equals about 1,890 feet) over deserts, high mountains, and bandit-infested areas. Three persons in the party died en route.

Sha I-lun, one of the members of the party who escaped from Sinkiang, stated that when he left Sinkiang the province was in a state of turmoil; the USSR consular staff was arriving and Communist troops were marching in to occupy the province. He also said that the majority of the people in Sinkiang were unwilling to cooperate with the Communists.

Some of the prominent figures included in the party besides Sha I-lun were: Han K'o-wen from Suiyuan; Feng Ta-hung, an official of the Lung-Hai Railroad; Chan Pien-ch'en, lawyer in the Shensi Higher Court; Kuan Chieh-min, director of the Min-kuo Jih-pao; T'ang Hsiung, director, Lan-chou Branch of the Central News Agency; Liu [illegible]-lieh of the Lan-chou Radio Station; and Huang Pin-ch'uan, official for the radio station belonging to the Northwest Commissioners Office.

CANTON REPATRIATES REFUGEES -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 4 Mar 50

Canton, 2 March - During 3 - 13 March, the welfare section of the Civil Administration Bureau, Canton People's government, will repatriate approximately 2,000 refugees who came to Canton from calamity-stricken areas. This measure is necessary to maintain public order and to improve conditions in the city.

GRAIN RESERVES FACILITATE KWANGTUNG DIKE REPAIRS -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao 25 Feb 50

Nan-hai, Kwangtung -- Until recently, 90 percent of the nearly 2 million cubic yards of earthwork needed on the dikes in Nan-hai Hsien remained undone due to lack of funds and other obstacles. On 22 February 1950, the Chu Chiang River Conservancy Commission decided to appropriate from the grain reserves of the provincial Flood Prevention and Dike Restoration Committee 400,000 catties of unpolished rice to supplement other available resources so that work may be started immediately after the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) and be finished before the time for spring plowing. Plans call for the repair of the water gates and for raising the dikes to a level higher than the height of last year's flood.

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HUNAN FARMERS WORK TO PREVENT T'UNG-T'ING LAKE FLOODS -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao,
24 Feb 50

Ch'ang-sha, 23 February 1950 -- To prevent a repetition of the serious floods of 1949, some 800,000 farmers of the 11 hsiens around T'ung-t'ing Lake are working to repair the dikes around the perimeter of the lake. In 1949, due to the neglect of the dikes during the war and because of the exceptionally heavy rains, more than 200,000 acres of rice lands were inundated and over 600,000 persons became flood victims.

Following surveys by conservancy engineers after the liberation of the area, farmers were mobilized and more than one million cubic meters of earth were moved to fill the breaches, raise the height of the dikes, and open the drainage channels. Up to 15 February, about 60 percent of the necessary work had been completed. Help is being given to the very poor through labor relief. The rate of payment permits an able-bodied man to earn from 5 to 7 catties of rice per day, which practically solves the living problem for a man and his family. The people are cooperating in good spirits, and where the workers are too few for the task, men from neighboring sections assist them.

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